

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 01964 231857Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
SAB-02 CU-04 IO-13 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05  
OMB-01 /096 W  
-----107250 231910Z /45

P R 231710Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6252  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PBOR, PN  
SUBJECT: NATIVES GETTING RESTLESS

REF: A. PANAMA 1806 B. PANAMA 1822

1. THE FEDERATION OF PANAMANIAN STUDENTS (FEP) HAS CONDEMNED  
THE SENATE'S AMENDMENTS TO THE PANAMA CANAL NEUTRALITY TREATY,  
BUT HAS RESERVED SOME OF ITS IRE FOR GOP HANDLING OF THE  
AMENDMENTS ISSUE.

2. AS A RESULT OF A MARCH 21 MEETING, THE LEFTIST, GOVERNMENT-  
FUNDED FEP, PANAMA'S LARGEST STUDENT ORGANIZATION, YESTERDAY  
ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE IMPLYING THAT THEY HAVE HAD TO RESIST  
"PRESSURE AND BLACKMAIL" IN ORDER TO "BRAVELY RECEIVE THE  
RESERVATIONS MADE BY THE U.S. SENATE WITH INDIGNATION." THE  
FEP DEMANDED THE PUBLICATION OF THE COMPLETE TEXTS OF THE  
AMENDMENTS, WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN PUBLICIZED OR MADE READILY  
AVAILABLE HERE. THEY ALSO CALLED FOR UNITY TO SEARCH FOR  
"ALTERNATIVES OF STRUGGLE" TO REJECT IMPERIALIST  
CAMPAIGNS. WITH A HINT OF FORCED RESTRAINT, THE STUDENTS  
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TERMED THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL  
YEAR (REPORTED REF B) AN "UNTIMELY DECISION THAT ONLY  
SERVES TO STOP THE NATIONAL LIBERATION PROCESS." THE  
DECISION WAS A "SURPRISE" TO THEM -- THEY HEARD ABOUT  
IT IN THE NEWS -- AS THE FEP LEADERSHIP HAD NOT BEEN  
CONSULTED.

3. THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF DEMOCRATIC TEACHERS HAS ALSO CRITICIZED THE DECISION TO POSTPONE THE OPENING OF SCHOOL, STATING THAT THE DECISION "DEMobilIZES" THE PEOPLE AT A TIME WHEN "PATRIOTIC ALERTNESS AND MILITANCY ARE NEEDED TO CONFRONT THE OLIGARCHY AND IMPERIALISM." THE COORDINATOR REJECTED THE "AMENDMENTS AGAINST PANAMA AND THE STRUGGLE HEADED BY GENERAL TORRIJOS."

4. COMMENT: THAT THE STUDENTS ARE UNHAPPY WITH THE SENATE'S AMENDMENTS AND RESERVATIONS IS NOT SURPRISING. THAT THE FEP IS CRITICAL OF GOP SILENCE ON THE AMENDMENTS AND OF THE DECISION TO DELAY SCHOOL OPENING IS MORE DISQUIETING. IT SUGGESTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP THE FEP IN LINE IF IT EVENTUALLY DECIDES TO TRY TO SWALLOW THE AMENDMENTS. OTHER SOURCES INDICATE THAT THE FEP FEELS THE GOVERNMENT HAS IMPOSED THE REIGN OF SILENCE BECAUSE IT CONSIDERS THE FEB MEMBERSHIP, HERETOFORE LOYAL TO GOVERNMENT CAUSES, TOO YOUNG AND IMMATURE TO BE TAKEN INTO ITS CONFIDENCE ON SENSITIVE TREATY MATTERS.

JORDEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, AGREEMENTS, CANALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PANAMA01964  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 PANAMA 1806  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**SAS ID:** 3225422  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NATIVES GETTING RESTLESS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PBOR, PN, FEDERATION OF PANAMANIAN STUDENTS, FEP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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